

2003 Report of Accomplishments

Whitman Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- 716 Acres of contour buffers were installed preventing an estimated 5,000 tons of soil erosion.
- Wildlife habitat has improved by working with 11 landowners to plant 36,000 stems.
- Technical and financial assistance was provided to 4 landowners resulting in the implementation of 4,250 ft of pipeline, 7 troughs, and 3,100 ft of fencing improving water quality by reducing access to the Snake River drainages.



Contour Buffers preventing soil erosion.

Mission of the Whitman Conservation District

- *The Mission of the Whitman Conservation District is to promote the wise, ethical, and sustainable use of Natural Resources, by leadership in the education and assistance of all Stakeholders. The Whitman Conservation District will promote the implementation of the best available conservation measures and provide a forum for local input on Natural Resource issues.*

Water Quality Implementation

- Technical assistance provided to 10 livestock operators for review of the Department of Ecology's water concerns with the livestock operations.
- Continued 30 miles stream assessment on Alkali Flat Creek, Almota Creek and Penawawa Creek for limiting factors for drainage to the Snake River.
- Technical and financial assistance provided through the newly developed District Cost-Share Program to 4 landowners resulting in 4,250 ft of pipeline, 7 troughs, and 3,100 ft of fencing to be installed improving water quality by reducing access to the Snake River drainages.
- 392 Customers were assisted by phone or in-person.
- Participation in Snake River Recovery efforts through Lead Entity.
- Participation in WRIA 34 and WRIA 35 Planning Sessions.
- Participation in the Palouse Sub-Basin Planning with Palouse Rock Lake CD, and participation in the Snake Sub-Basin Planning with Pomeroy CD.

Basic Funding

- Provides supplemental funding for district staff (1 FTE), office administration, association dues – no employees, no office, no implementation.
- Provides funding for employee time for the completion of the required election process.
- Provides funding for employee time for the required State Audits.

Local Funding

- Whitman County and the Port of Whitman County provided \$5,800 for completion of the "Oilseed Source and Economic Study" project. The project's purpose was to promote alternative crops with rotation and to determine the breakeven economic point of those crops. A published paper "Cost of Producing Canola and Mustard Oilseeds in Eastern Washington and North Central Idaho" (ED1960E) was produced.

Professional Engineering

- Provided on-site technical assistance to 13 livestock owners, assisting to meet the Department of Ecology's water quality vague guidelines.
- Design, management, and construction supervision of 4 landowners resulting in 4,250 ft of pipeline, 7 troughs, and 3,100 ft of fencing to be installed improving water quality by reducing access to the Snake River drainages.
- Dedicated 132 hours towards EQIP planning for 4 District producers.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Accomplished having 6 stream miles listed for the Program, adding to the already listed 3.5 stream miles.
- There were 2 new landowner contacts.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *Technical assistance provided to 11 landowners for the installation of wildlife habitat resulting in 36,000 stems being planted or 66 acres being treated.*
- *Technical assistance provided for installation of a 5-acre windbreak.*
- *Technical assistance provided to 1 landowner for the installation of a 1-acre wetland restoration.*
- *3,500 plants were sold to 26 agricultural and non-agricultural customers in the District's Annual Plant Sale.*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *Attended 6 County Commissioner meetings to collaborate in a funding proposal submission to Congressman George Nethercutt's office for a local oilseed processor project.*
- *Supervisors and staff participated in a meeting with Chief Bruce Knight and NACD Representative Read Smith regarding district activities, partnerships and local concerns.*
- *Supervisor and staff participation in the Local Work Group for the Palouse Team.*

Information & Education

- *Hosted District Annual Meeting, assisting 32 attendees to better understand what is being viewed by the Department of Ecology in the "windshield drivebys" of the drainages in the County.*
- *Hosted a Shop Talk: Air Quality and the Burn Program, assisting 18 attendees to better understand the changes made to the Department of Ecology's Burn Permit Program of which the District is a local Permitting Authority.*
- *In partnership with the Pine Creek CD, published four quarterly issues of the District's newsletter, The Steward, totaling 53 articles related to water quality with a circulation mailing of 900.*
- *Provided conservation education to 3 fifth grade classes consisting of 74 participants resulting in 1 ½ - acres of wildlife habitat being planted.*
- *Provided water quality education to 3 sixth grade classes consisting of 82 participants.*
- *Demonstration Project: Chemfallow vs. Conventional Summerfallow (>14" precipitation zone) with moisture, organic matter and yield comparisons. 6 soil samplings were completed with newsletter articles and 1 yield cut with results being published.*
- *Hosted 4 tours to the University of Idaho's Bio-Agricultural Engineering for promotion of alternative crops in the direct seed / no-till / minimum till crop rotations, focusing on oilseeds, biofuels and by products.*
- *Provided financial and clerical support for the NW Crops Project which is a research project that promotes alternative crops involving 5 producers within the District; also co-hosted an alternative crop (corn) meeting with 20 in attendance.*
- *Co-hosted a County fair booth with approximately 550 persons attending or passing through the booth experiencing the change in time for farming in the County.*
- *Hosted the 2002 Whitman County Land Judging Contest which consisted of 145 high school students competing in the judging of a variety of soil pits.*
- *Assisted Palouse Rock Lake CD with the 2003 Whitman County Envirothon Contest which consisted of 135 high school students competing in 6 different natural resources fields.*



Small oilseed crusher.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices.